

## Pacific Air Forces commander to retire

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii (PACAFNS) - Air Force officials announced Jan. 22 the retirement of Gen. Patrick Gamble, commander, Pacific Air Forces; and Air Component Commander for United States Pacific Command, here, effective May 1.

A change of command is expected in mid-March, a replacement has not yet been named.

As PACAF commander, Gamble has responsibility for Air Force activities spread over half the globe in a command that supports 45,000 Air Force people serving principally in Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, the Republic of Korea and Japan.

The general entered the Air Force in 1967 through the four-year ROTC program at Texas A&M University. He flew 394 combat missions as a forward air controller in the O-1 Bird Dog in Vietnam. He has commanded a fighter squadron and three wings. Before assuming his current position in July 1998, he was deputy chief of staff for air and space operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon, Washington.

Gamble has been named president and chief executive officer of Alaska Railroad Corp., Anchorage Alaska.

## Director announces public affairs awards

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii (PACAFNS) - The Pacific Air Forces director of public affairs announced the winners of the 2000 PACAF Public Affairs Director's Excellence Awards Jan. 25.

Top finishers are:

— Public Affairs Director's Excellence Award, large wing (base population greater than 5,000) - 18th Wing, Kadena AB, Japan

— Public Affairs Director's Excellence Award, small wing (base population less than 5,000) - 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea

— Public Affairs Director's Excellence Award for Media Relations - 3rd Wing, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

— Public Affairs Director's Excellence Award for Internal Information - 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea

— Public Affairs Director's Excellence Award for Community Relations - 18th Wing, Kadena AB, Japan

— Public Affairs Director's Excellence Award for Special Achievement in a Crisis Situation: Kunsan Friendship Alliance, - 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea

— Public Affairs Director's Excellence Award for Special Achievement, Planned Single Event - 18th Wing, Kadena AB, Japan

— Public Affairs Director's Excellence Award for Community Involvement in Environmental Planning - 3rd Wing, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

— Public Affairs Special Achievement Award for Commander Support - Col. Philip Breedlove, 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea

— Outstanding Public Affairs Field Grade Officer - Maj. Stephen Clutter, 374th

Airlift Wing, Yokota AB, Japan

— Outstanding Public Affairs Company Grade Officer - Capt. Christopher Karns, 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea

— Outstanding Public Affairs Entry Level Civilian (GS-5 To GS-7) - Ms. Sandra Rasberry, 3rd Wing, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

— Outstanding Public Affairs Intermediate Grade Civilian (GS-9 To GS-11) - Mr. Masao Doi, 35th Fighter Wing, Misawa AB, Japan

— Outstanding Public Affairs Senior Noncommissioned Officer - Master Sgt. William Ackerman, 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea

— Outstanding Public Affairs Noncommissioned Officer - Tech. Sgt. Christopher Haug, Sr., Headquarters PACAF, Hickam AFB, Hawaii

— Outstanding Public Affairs Airman - Senior Airman Jennifer Thompson, 15th Air Base Wing, Hickam AFB, Hawaii

— Outstanding Contribution to Public Affairs Programs - Tech. Sgt. William Tuten, 18th Wing, Kadena AB, Japan

— Outstanding Host Nation Employee of the Year - Ms. Takako Fukuhara, 18th Wing, Kadena AB, Japan

— Outstanding Band Senior Noncommissioned Officer - Senior Master Sgt. Tait Solberg, U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific - Asia, Yokota AB, Japan

— Outstanding Band Noncommissioned Officer - Staff Sgt. Keith Munn, U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific - Asia, Yokota AB, Japan

— Outstanding Band Airman - Staff Sgt. Michael Khosrovani, U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific - Asia, Yokota AB, Japan

## Bank extends clemency offer to delinquent cardholders

WASHINGTON (AFPN) - In an effort to minimize the consequences facing airmen who have delinquent government travel card accounts, the card's issuer is granting a one-time opportunity for them to avoid the negative effects of credit bureau reporting.

Bank of America's government card program officials notified senior Air Force leadership this week of a one-time clemency offer for any servicemember whose travel card account is canceled (more than 126 days past due) but not yet written off as a loss, according to Air Force finance officials.

The contract between the government and Bank of America allows the bank to report all government travelers who used the travel card and did not pay their bill, said Michael Weber, Air Force travel card program coordinator.

"The contract allows the bank to send this credit information to a credit bureau after the card is 126 days delinquent," he said.

"This could cause an Air Force member to be denied future credit for a car loan, utilities, cell phone or other purchases."

Affected cardholders in this category can avoid being reported to credit bureaus provided the following criteria applies:

— The cardholder's account must be less than 210 days delinquent.

— The account balance must be paid in full by April 2. Bank of America must receive the payment via normal payment methods by that date.

— Canceled accounts paid in full

between now and April 2 will not be reported to the credit bureaus; however, the card will not be reinstated.

Finance officials encourage commanders, senior enlisted advisers and first sergeants to be involved in their units'

travel card program.

"This one-time clemency program is a opportunity to fix this situation that can potentially cause Air Force people grief later," Weber said.

Commanders and senior enlisted

advisers can get information on delinquent cardholders in their unit from the organization's activity program coordinator. Unit program coordinators can call the travel card service center for assistance at (800) 472-1424.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Delia Castillo

### C-5 deploys to African Eagle exercise

A loadmaster marshals a fuel truck out of a C-5 Galaxy cargo aircraft from Dover Air Force Base, Del., deployed to Sidi Slimane Air Base, Morocco, in support of exercise African Eagle. African Eagle is a biannual exercise designed to practice dissimilar air-to-air training with the Royal Moroccan air force.